

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:681
ANSWERED ON:20.07.2016
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation
Lekhi Smt. Meenakashi

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

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- (a) the details of benefits that might accrue to India by becoming a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO); and
- (b) whether there is proposal for military and diplomatic engagement with other member States of the SCO and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI M.J. AKBAR)

(a) India's membership of SCO will provide opportunities for cooperation on economic and security matters including counter-terrorism. SCO also has potential to enhance connectivity options and energy security for India.

(b) India has diplomatic relations with all the SCO member countries. SCO has regular discussions on wide range of issues. It also organizes joint anti-terrorist exercises and facilitates sharing of information and best practices on combating terrorism.